

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02268 211512Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 IO-10 /070 W
----- 058806

R 211340Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8881
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2268

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XM, XL
SUBJECT: REACTION OF HAITIAN LEADERSHIP TO QUITO MFM

REF: STATE 252031

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS, TO WHOM I CONVEYED POINTS PARA 7
REFTEL ON NOVEMBER 20, COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON QUITO MFM:
 2. ATMOSPHERE IN QUITO WAS NOTICEABLY TROUBLED, WITH POLICE
FORCED TO STRONGARM LEFTWING STUDENTS AND MILITARY MUCH IN
EVIDENCE. THIS COULD NOT BUT AFFECT ECUADOR'S POSITION IN MFM.
 3. ADVOCATES OF LIFTING SANCTIONS, NOTABLY FASCIO OF COSTA RICA,
OFTEN SOUNDED NAKEDLY COMMERCIAL NOTE, AS IF EXPECTED TRADE
ADVANTAGES ALONE RATHER THAN ANY REAL INTEREST IN RESUMING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SHOULD SUFFICE. ONE FOREIGN MINISTER (BERGES
OF DR) WHEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN HIS PRO-CASTRO STANCE, SAID HE WAS
CANDIDATE FOR OAS SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THIS WAY COULD COUNT ON
RECEIVING AT LEAST 12 VOTES. BRUTUS ASKED BERGES WHETHER HE WAS
NOT PLACING PERSONAL AMBITION BEFORE INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY.
4. NEUTRAL ATTITUDE OF USDEL STRUCK BRUTUS AS EMINENTLY WISE,
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PAGE 02 PORT A 02268 211512Z

TACTICALLY. IF PRO-CASTRO DELEGATES WERE ANNOYED WITH THIS

POSTURE, THIS WAS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAD NO BASIS FOR USUAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT US "PRESSURE". HAD SECRETARY HIMSELF BEEN THERE THESE ARGUMENTS COULD HAVE BEEN PLAYED MORE EASILY. HIS ABSENCE, BRUTUS THOUGHT, WAS FORTUNATE.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR INTRA-OAS RELATIONS, BRUTUS FELT, WERE DISHEARTENING. BRUTUS SHARED SILVEIRA'S INDIGNATION AT FAILURE OF OTHERS TO CONSULT WITH GOB IN ADVANCE. HE EXPRESSED DISDAIN FOR THOSE WHO WINKED AT CASTRO'S OPENLY CONTEMPTUOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD OAS. IN BRUTUS'S VIEW THEY SEEMED QUITE PREPARED TO OFFER CUBA A NEW FORUM FOR INSULTING LA NEIGHBORS, WITHOUT SEEKING ANY CUBAN PERFORMANCE.

6. IN AFTERMATH OF QUITO BRUTUS SPECULATED THAT SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD UNDERGO UPHEAVALS IN COMING MONTHS AS CONSERVATIVE AND MILITARY ELEMENTS REACTED AGAINST PRO-CASTRO STANCE ADOPTED BY THEIR DELEGATIONS, SHARPENING THE LEFT/RIGHT DIVISIONS SO PREVALENT IN LA.

7. BRUTUS EMPHASITICALLY AGREED WITH POINT IN OUR COMMENTARY THAT THERE ARE MANY ISSUES MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CUBA PROBLEM.

8. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH ME LATER IN DAY, PRESIDENT DUVALIER EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION OVER QUITO MFM OUTCOME AND HIS ADMIRATION FOR POSITION TAKEN BY U.S. HAITI'S POSITION TOWARD CUBA HAD NOT CHANGED; THE LESS SHE HAD TO DO WITH CASTRO THE BETTER; AND US POLICY ON THIS ISSUE WOULD CONTINUE TO GUIDE THAT OF HAITI, HE SAID.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTA02268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740337-0857
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741124/aaaaatg.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 252031
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION OF HAITIAN LEADERSHIP TO QUITO MFM
TAGS: PFOR, XM, XL, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005